M·I·N·K
TOKYOPOP
5
Megumi Tachikawa

電脳少女☆
サイバーアイドル
Mink
ミンク
5

電脳少女☆ Mink

Volume 5

By
Megumi Tachikawa

TOKYOPOP

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Mink Vol. 5
Created by Megumi Tachikawa

Translation - Michele Kriegman
English Adaptation - Darcy Lockman
Retouch and Lettering - Jeanine Han
Production Artist - James Lee and Jose Macasocol, Jr
Cover Design - Anna Kernbaum

Editor - Lillian Diaz-Przybyl
Digital Imaging Manager - Chris Buford
Pre-Press Manager - Antonio DePietro
Production Managers - Jennifer Miller and Mutsumi Miyazaki
Art Director - Matt Alford
Managing Editor - Jill Freshney
VP of Production - Ron Klamert
Editor-in-Chief - Mike Kiley
President and C.O.O. - John Parker
Publisher and C.E.O. - Stuart Levy

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TOKYOPOP Inc
5900 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 2000
Los Angeles, CA 90036

E-mail: info@TOKYOPOP.com
Come visit us online at www.TOKYOPOP.com

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WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF

電脳少女★Mink

▶▶▶ WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF Cyber Idol Mink ▶▶▶

CHARACTERS

Cyber Idol Mink travels the world!
Mink Shiraishi's idol identity
Mink Shiraishi, second-year middle school student
Kanoka transforms into Canon!
Kanoka Moriyama
Mahoko transforms into Maca!
Mahoko Terumi
Om WANNA-BE software's information guide
Mink's best friends
Motoharu Terumi
Mink's hot-blooded young manager (and Mahoko's older brother)
Kyo J. Falwell
The creator of WANNA-BE
WANNA BE software, helps you become who you wanna be!

With Mink at his mercy, Kyo gets started with his plans to use his software for world domination. And Mink has no idea how to stop him.

STORY

When Kyo-WANNA-BE's inventor-shows up, he transforms Mink's best friends, Kanoka and Mahoko, into idols too.

He also threatens to reveal Mink's true identity to Motoharu if she doesn't follow his orders.

Thanks to futuristic software package WANNA-BE, ordinary, mild-mannered Mink Shiraishi can turn into Cyber Idol Mink with just a click of a mouse. She's not that into being a celeb-what motivates her is really just her crush on Motoharu, her manager, whose success as a talent agent rides largely on her career.

CONTENTS

Chapter 20
Boy Trouble!!...7

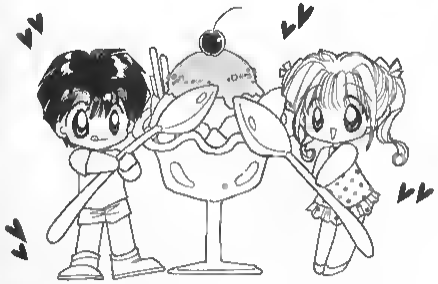
Chapter 21
Version 2.0...40

Chapter 22
Minkie in Hawaii...71

Chapter 23
A Midsummer Night's Meteor . 111

Chapter 24
Back from the Future ..151

No!
Do you want him to find out who you really are?
I'll show you what will happen if you don't obey my orders...
...But you'll have to wait for today's concert.
Have fun, Mink!
6



Chapter 20
Boy Trouble!!...5

Cyber Idol Mink

SPARK!!
What could he be talking about??
SHOOTING STAR
Three shooting stars have fallen from the sky to our stage...

Twinkle Star
"Twinkle Minkle Star"!!
Every girl is a hero
Don't get too comfortable--- we're here to rock!
We're aiming at that single...
...unforgettable shining star!

HELLO EVERYBODY!!
Could it be just an empty threat?
We are Minkle!!
And here's our FIRST SINGLE!!

That's the spirit!
Motoharu...
Do you want him to find out who you really are?
How could he?! how could he?!

Hey "Manager"...
Yes, please keep focusing on the stage.
BWAAA
Who are you? Only employees are allowed backstage.
"Manager"?
!?
Soon you will see the Mink you don't know...
...the Mink that I alone can reveal.
After all, she belongs to me.
.....!
What's that supposed to mean? Who are you?
BWAAA
.....!?
Wait a minute.
Where's he gone?!
?
I want to know everything about you.
How could there be a Mink that I don't know, that he does?
完全にカンチガイ
He's got it completely wrong
It can't be!
It's like this...

Mink will be back any minute.
PANIC!!
Come on, what do I do— what should I do?
Wow, they're so awesome!
What --!!
P
P
P
P

Tone deaf
Star
Mink power down
しゅるるる
M-Mink?!
It can't be! Is she turning back into--!?
Why?
Come on, guitar!!
Aaagh!?
Huh?

Yeah.
Mink, what's going on? Hurry up and transform!
.....!?
Thank you, everyone!!
Keep the applause coming!!
I've become your number one fan!
Encore! Encore!
Minkle rocks!

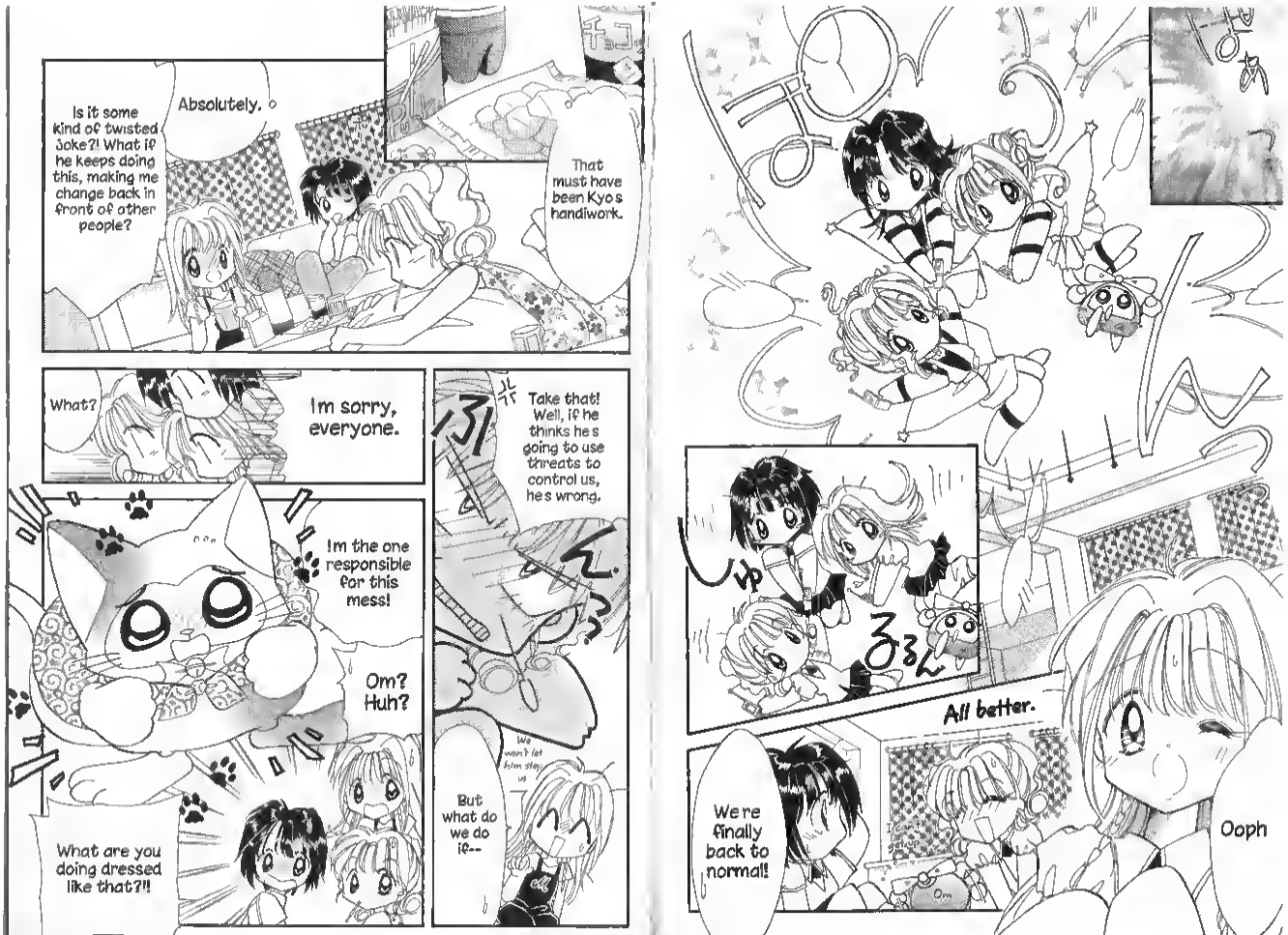
P
P
Ah
BOING
I made a mistake
Amazing! What a fast change.
How'd she do that?!

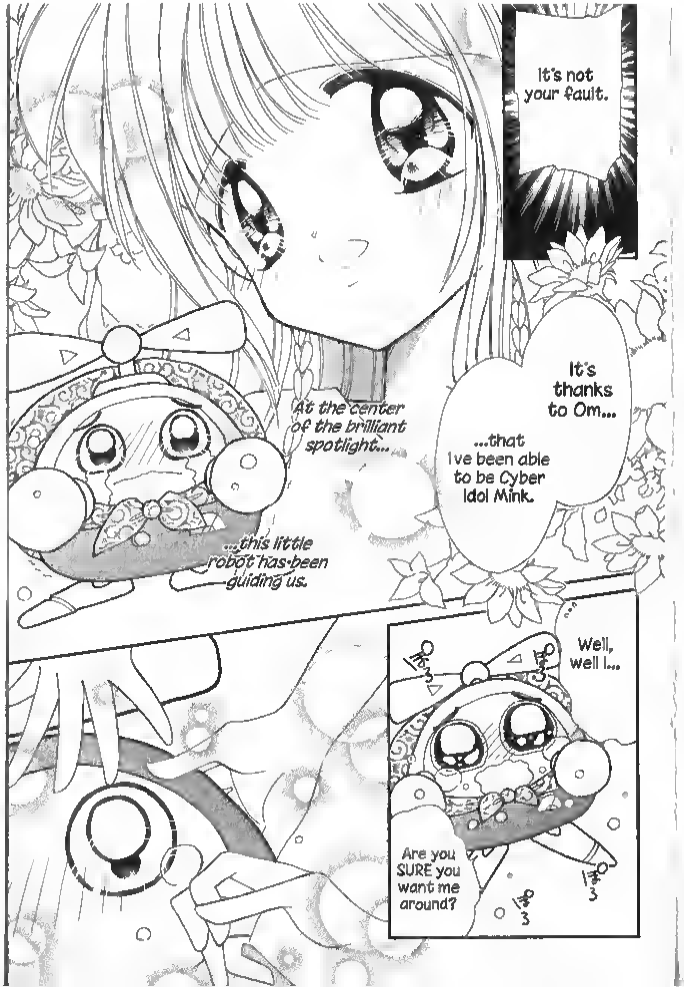
Are you hiding something from me?
Oh, no! He saw it after all.
He saw me turn back.
What do I do--
I'm asking you. Talk to me!!

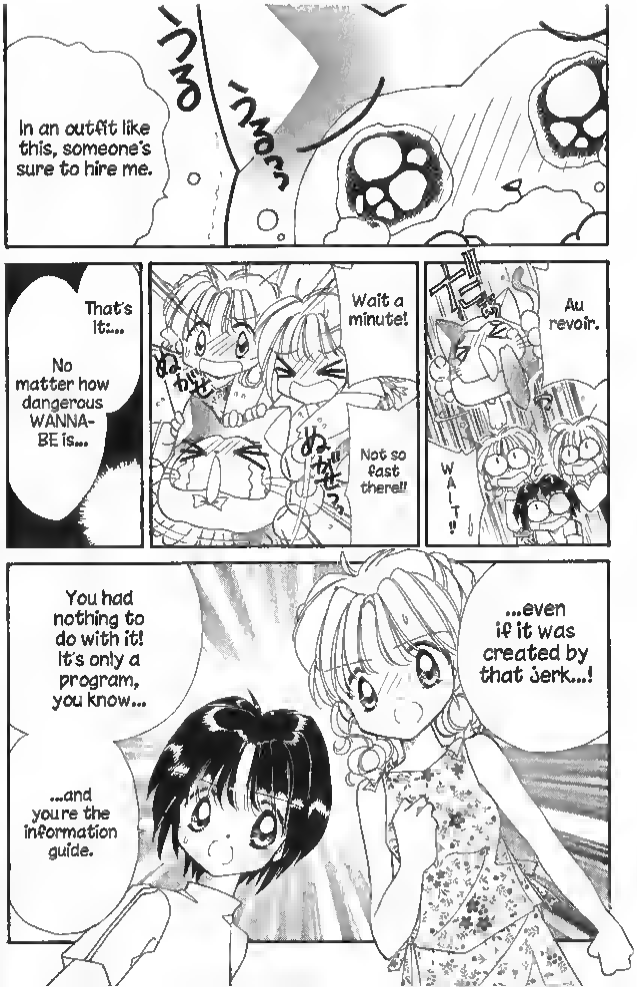
That...
That was scary.
But somehow it turned out okay.
It's over, right? Nobody figured me out, did they?
I had no idea what would happen next.
Good job!
Let's do it just like this next time!
All three of you were great!
Thank goodness no one found out.
Stage crew
!!
Mink

You don't have anything to apologize for. I'm fine.
I'm sorry! I should do a better job watching over you.
That creep
...at the hands of that creep!
I won't let anything bad happen to you...
Thank you, Motoharu.
If I could ask the universe for one thing...
...it would be that you never find out...
...that I am really only Mink.
No matter what it takes, I want to be near Motoharu. Even if I have to go on with this lie forever.

Is he a stalker?! Is he from the media?! Did Azumi Mizuhara send him?!
What's he talking about?!
That strange guy who is following you, is he...?!
...Why didn't you tell me sooner?
Not what you thought he was going to say, eh?


Is it some kind of twisted joke?! What if he keeps doing this, making me change back in front of other people?
Absolutely.
That must have been Kyo's handiwork.
What?
I'm sorry, everyone.
I'm the one responsible for this mess!
Om? Huh?
What are you doing dressed like that?!!
Take that! Well, if he thinks he's going to use threats to control us, he's wrong.
We won't let him stop us
But what do we do if--
Up
Om
All better.
We're finally back to normal!
Ooph


It's not your fault.
It's thanks to Om...
...that I've been able to be Cyber Idol Mink.
At the center of the brilliant spotlight...
...this little robot has been guiding us.
Well, well...
Are you SURE you want me around?


In an outfit like this, someone's sure to hire me.
うる
うるる
That's it....
No matter how dangerous WANNA-BE is...
Wait a minute!
Not so fast there!!
Au revoir.
WAIT!!
You had nothing to do with it! It's only a program, you know...
...and you're the information guide.
...even if it was created by that jerk...!

Hey--
Hello, it's Minkle!!
Today on "Tokyo Walking" we're going to take you to some shops we like.
A convenience store, some trendy coffee shops...
Hurry, let's go!
Cut!!
That's right--
Of course!!
Let's celebrate our first live show!!
As long as we stick together, we're strong enough to handle an entire mountain of Junk Food...
...or anything else that might come along.
Ya, Mahato, we did a nice job here
Cyber Idols sure can eat. Cleaned our plates

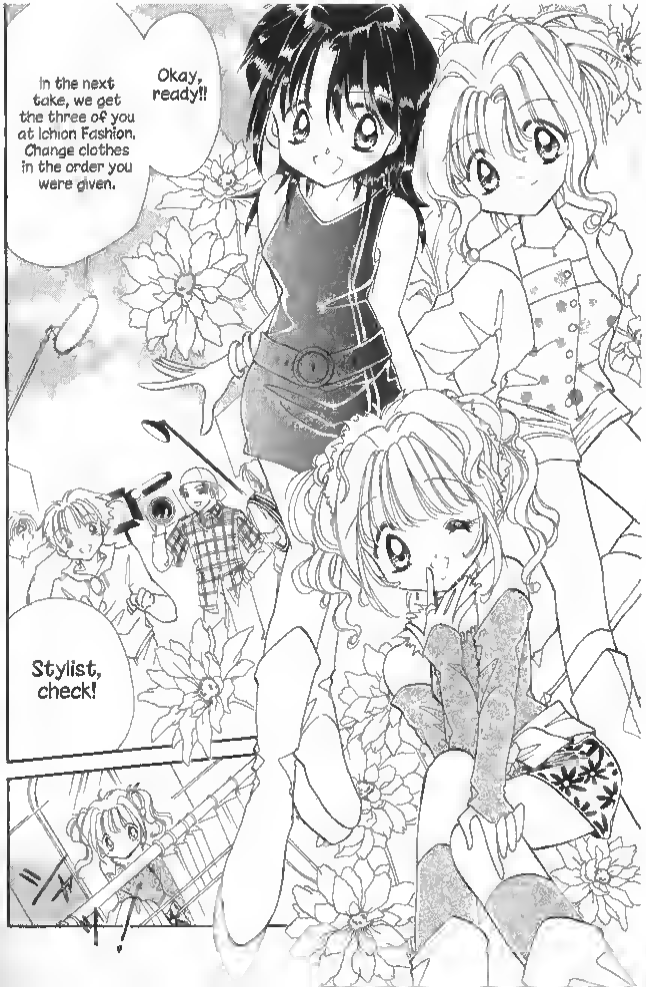
Here! Strawberry, right? Tough work, I know.
Consider this your reward
Wow.
Actually we should go into the next store and explain what we're going to do.
Come with me
What can you do with those guys...?
Ice Cream

Here's the next store the three of you are supposed to introduce, but...
Just wait until the crowd thins.
Hold it, hold it. There's too much noise
Ooh, I can't wait to go to this one.
Let's go, the next one is right next door!
Mink will listen for us. ♡
Eh-?
Hey, hold up, you newbies!! First listen to this...

When I'm with Motoharu, my heart pounds and I feel like I'm about to cry.
If he knew I were really just Mink Shiraishi, would he still want to be with me?
Right, Motoharu?
Ah
Hey!!
Okay, let's go!

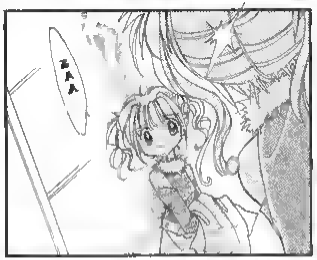
Date Date
Date Date
Date Date
Date Date
Don't let it melt!
Ohmygawd, ohmygawd, this could be a —
—kind of a date!?
Motoharu!! Don't!!
I have to—you're not eating it fast enough.
Enlargement
It's melting already?
Hello
.....

Mink
KYO!!
Physically changing clothes is so inefficient for a Cyber Idol.
Why don't you just use the clothes-changing function?


Okay, ready!!
In the next take, we get the three of you at Ichion Fashion. Change clothes in the order you were given.
Stylist, check!

What are you doing?
Why are you doing this?
This can't happen now. I left my cell phone on the bus!
Where's Mink? She's late.
Mink, aren't you ready?
?
You don't want Motoharu to know, do you?
If it were up to me, I'd turn you back to plain old Mink for good.

Hmmm... You think you can speak to me that way, eh?
I've survived this long without your "helpful" suggestions.

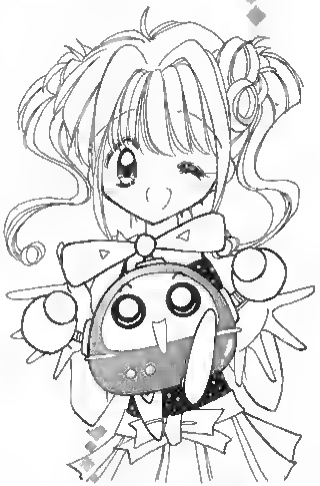

ZAA

ZAA
ZAA
ZAA
ZAA

Product Mink
Power down.

Mink!!
Don't come in, Motoharu.
No, please...
I'm opening the curtain, okay?
STOP IT!!
Not ready yet, Mink?
Look! You're being called
Maybe she's sick?
What's taking so long? What could be happening?
Well? Feel like working for me yet?
Mink!! What's the matter?!
Stop!

Hi, it's Megumi Tachikawa. "Cyber Idol Mink" is already in volume 5 - I can't believe this has happened so fast. This time around, even though I didn't plan to, I ended up using all my own costume designs. That's probably why there are so many Japanese-style cotton gowns and policewoman outfits. As usual, I'm enjoying the questions and answers in this column. If you feel like having me answer a question of yours, fire away. I'll do my best to answer it! If there are questions that even your parents or teachers or friends can't answer (that are related to manga), those would be good ones to ask. (I'm getting specific because sometimes my mailbox is like a help line, with people asking all sorts of agonizing questions that I'm not very good with.) Anyway, let's get back to Mink Cyber-Space!

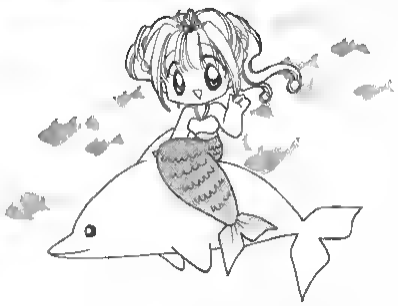


☆☆☆☆

☆☆☆☆

Go away, you horny--
Me?
Pervert?! You think I'm a pervert--
You idiot!
Pervert! Pervert! Pervert!! Help, someone--!!!
NO!!!
!!
Hey, that's...!!!
Stay away from Mink!

I'm coming in, Mink!!
Don't open it, Motoharu!
He's finally going to learn the truth.



!!

You Jerk!!
When perverts get scary...
...the idol's manager will take care of things!!

I changed back...!
You BARBARIAN!!
What did you do to my delicate system?
Where's Motoharu?
Did he see my true form?
Did he find out?!

C--
Curses! Now I can't manipulate it!
BEEP
ERROR
WANNA-BE is frozen!

You've acted rashly again!
The problem's with you—you can't tell me he didn't do anything, can you?
No, I'm not!! (lying)
You're in pain, aren't you?
I SAID, it's fine!!
Motoharu!!
It doesn't hurt!!
That's gotta hurt!!
We have to get you to the hospital immediately, either way.

What...?
Meteharu...
Motoharu! Your hand—there's blood!
Where did the pervert go?
He was definitely right here
How did I break this mirror?
AAAAAAGH!!
No, your hand is more important!
What's more important is that he got in here—

Q. How long does it take to draw a manga?

A. I mapped out my actual schedule in Volume 4. You can see it there and then you'll know exactly. If a chapter is 30 pages, it takes about one month. If I go over and do 40 pages that month, I can't get enough sleep. If it's more than that I simply can't get it done in a month! But this only applies to me; there are other people who can draw manga really fast. I think there's a lot of individual differences. I tend to be on the slow side. I'm pretty sure about that!

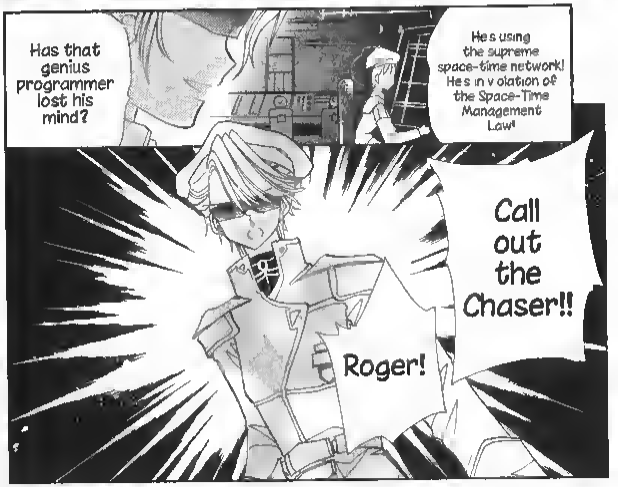
I'm sorry Mink, but we have to continue the shoot...
I'm so sorry, Motoharu.
But if I tell him what's been going on...
Because of all my secrets, I can't tell you what I'd really like to say.
I'm always putting you in harm's way.
...he'll never forgive me.
I'm sure I hit him...
It was definitely the same guy.

It's generating a large volume of electromagnetic waves!
Commander, the warp at 2001 C. E. Point Beta. phi.7 in space-time has just been confirmed.
Police bulletin...
...2001 C. E. Point Beta. phi.7
TOKYO.
What's the emission point?
There it is--
We're calculating that now.

ふふふ
ふふふ
Yikes! A ghost is no joke.
Year: 2099 C. E.
I don't believe in ghosts.
Slow down!

Chasers here.
Don't let him slip away—he's committed the most serious crime of the Space-Time Management Law!!
Get after Faiwell ASAP!
Yes, sir!
They don't call us "Chasers" for nothing. We'll get him!!

After he left the D.W. corporation, he disappeared.
Isn't that Kyo J. Faiwell?...
...A federation-certified, special A-rank programmer.
What do you suppose he's doing now that he's accessed the past?


Has that genius programmer lost his mind?
He's using the supreme space-time network! He's in violation of the Space-Time Management Law!
Call out the Chaser!!
Roger!

Whoa, wait a minute.
!!
Oh no!
But it still looks good!
Where's your head?!
Hey, you haven't returned to your normal form but you're still wearing the school uniform!!
Eek!
I've felt strange since yesterday.
I have a feeling I'm going to see something odd again.
Mink is wearing my school's uniform.
Mink is wearing my school's uniform.
Mink is wearing my school's uniform.
つかれてるのかなあ
I wonder if I'm just tired.

I forgot all about school, with all this worrying about Motoharu's injury, but...
...I'm still not sure if he saw my true form.
Come on, we're going to go without you.
If you don't hurry up we'll be tardy.
Mink
Mink, time to go to school!

キャー!
One hop to school!!
WANNA-BE is super-useful.
キャー!
キャー!
Come on, Network!
WANNA-BE
Move!

...tardy!
We're going to get marked...
There's the homeroom bell!!
After school
Motoharu!
Oooh... heavy.
Since I hardly ever come to school...
?
...I have a ton of reports and homework to turn in.
That's what I get for taking the year off
I do, but I'm carrying too many bags to use it
Don't you have an umbrella?
Oh, no. You're soaked!
Shhh ok!
I stuck my right hand out a little too far.
But no self-pity
Aww.
Let me carry those for you.

Cut it out.
There!
Hey
Oops
Yada yada yada yada
I lost.
Your hand, does it hurt?
Nope.
I've heard this conversation somewhere before...
No, it doesn't.
Haven't you been listening to anything I say?
Really? It looks like it would.
Stress
Wait a sec--
Where was it?
I don't think he can tell that I'm Munk, the Cyber Idol.
But he does seem to think something is strange, doesn't he?
Oh, Motoharu--!
It's not good for you to be carrying such heavy stuff...
Umm... well, at least let me share my umbrella!
Shift
This small gesture...
...this is the only thing I can do for him?
I'll go with you.

Hey, honey
There!
Producer
Guess you can't do it yourself, with a hand like that.
Sorry.
Eep!
He's so close to me!
Hey, hey, what are you doing?!
Disconnect.
Oh, sorry, Producer West.
But...
...I was first.

Whoooaa! That surprised me!
Call phone melody
Kyaa!
The other day--
I'm sorry, but would you mind hitting "talk" for me?
My call is in my pocket
N-not at all.
Our debut single.
Yes, it's, it's...

Your Mink is...
... right here.
There's so much I want to ask...
Huh?
...like why your cell phone melody is our debut single...
Why...
...And why you always take such good care of me.

But I can't say that to him...
I can only say this.
That hand...
...is injured because he rescued me from Kyo.
Thank you, Motoharu.

We shall sow feed on the earth...
...for my little dwellers in antiquity to feed on.
What's that?
Did you really need to go back for the thing you forgot today?
Cut this out!!
I don't like this.
It looks like something's moving...
Rumble
EEEEEEk!

P
P
P
Oh, I bet you'll like that.
--I'll just use a different product to send her a little present.
If I can't control Mink anymore from here--
And my old employers who banished me will see it all.
I won't be defeated.
... is this so painful?
Is this some kind of present for me?
Did I do her some favor?
Oh, it's nothing

CLACK
WANNA-BE
VER. 2.0
CLACK
Wa Ha Ha Ha Ha!
It is free.
CLACK

ANNA - BE VER. 2
"Do you wish your pathetic self had been born as someone else?"
I think we just forgot to shut it off.
Wait a sec. Take a look at this--
"WANNA-BE, Version 2.0. The transformation trial freeware, available now."
Become the "you" you want to be.
Come on, don't you want to try it?
You said you wanted a thinner face.
Whoa- what is this?
It looks interesting!

The sky is so white!
The clouds are so blue!
Mink, you've got it backwards.
What if the sky were really white!
She's just confused... it's the season of love.

電脳少女☆Mink
Cyber Idol Mink
Chapter 22
Minkle in Hawaii
ミンクル イン ハワイ

ALOHA!!
I better break it to them.
Since then...
The lives of Minkie's members have been, well, chaos.
You guys can't come. It's just the fans, Minkie and the event staff.
Oooh, this is gonna rock.
Hawaii Hawaii Hawaii Hawaii Hawaii Hawaii
I'll be with Motoharu..
It's already planned out!
I'm sorry I can't bring you with me.
Why is it chaos? Well, because of our manager, Motoharu, of course.
We're touring Hawaii as Minkie!!!
I can't believe we got this gig!
Hello, Everyone!
Minkie
Thanks to a chance encounter with software from the future, we've been transformed into the hot rock band "Minkie!"
SUMMER LIVE TOUR
IN HAWAII

Maybe this summer is when Motoharu and I will--
Mink, human-- you haven't been listening to me!!

I just said I can't take you with me!!
Hey aren't you listening?
Yaaaay!!!
Hawaii, banzai!!

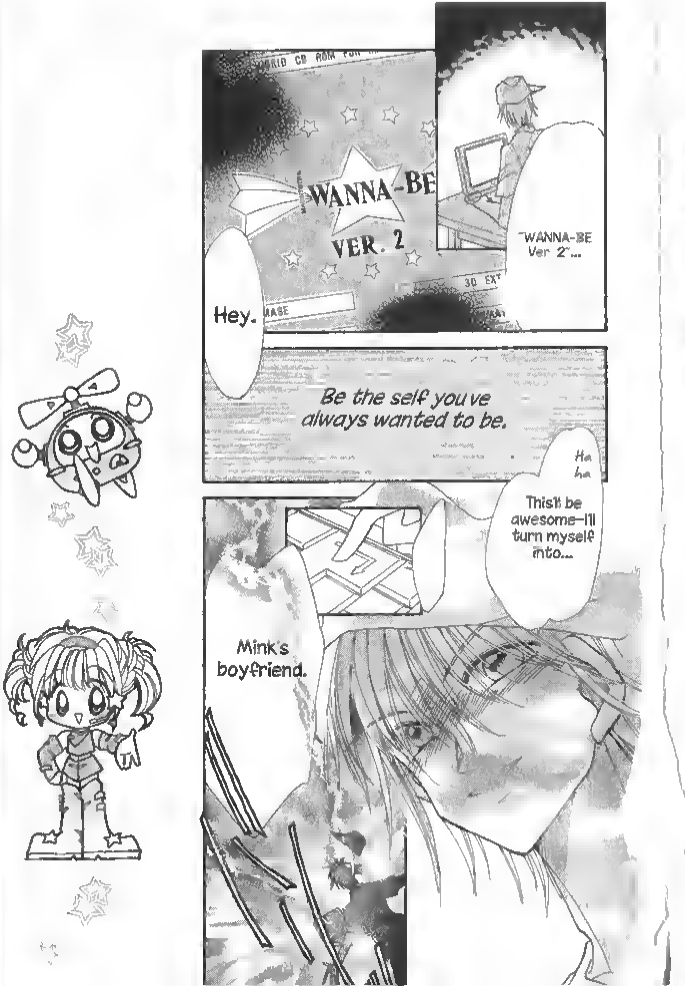
!!
Maybe it's from the travel agency?
It's a fax.
HEY!
RRRRRR

Everything about the super-popular idol group Minkle is top secret!
Minkle
It's illegal to use software from the future...
...so you do NOT want to be caught! They'll delete you!
The Om Lecture, taught by your WANNA-BE guide robot.

.....?
Is someone following me?!
She was a witch from Greek mythology who thought that the end justifies the means...
Medea.
Who's that?!
Who-
Whoah!
.....?

Mink is mine alone.
BEYOND Medea
What's THIS?!
What is this?! Who is this "BEYOND"?
んふ!! んふ!! んふ!!
はぐはぐはぐはぐ

Motoharu.
Don't leave my side.
...Mink.
Yuck. A red skirt... that was yesterday!!
That gives me the creeps.
That weirdo who was following?!
Take a look at this!! There's a strange e-mail.
The next day...
Mink, my favorite. Your red skirt was too cute. When can I see you again?
BEYOND Medea
A stalker, that's what this is.
Just when we're almost ready to do a live show in Hawaii..!
A stalker?!


WANNA-BE
VER. 2
"WANNA-BE Ver 2"...
Hey.
Be the self you've always wanted to be.
Ha ha
This'll be awesome—I'll turn myself into...
Mink's boyfriend.

This is Mink last year, at 7:10 AM, on May 10th.
And this is Mink at 8:59 AM on December 31st.
This is her July 2nd at 6:33.
Minkie Autograph Meet
Get it? She came here to see me!!
I guess you won't be able to see Mink, will you?
Minkie is like perishable goods, and everyone's fighting the convenience store clerk to get them.
He seems dangerous ...
He doesn't look right.

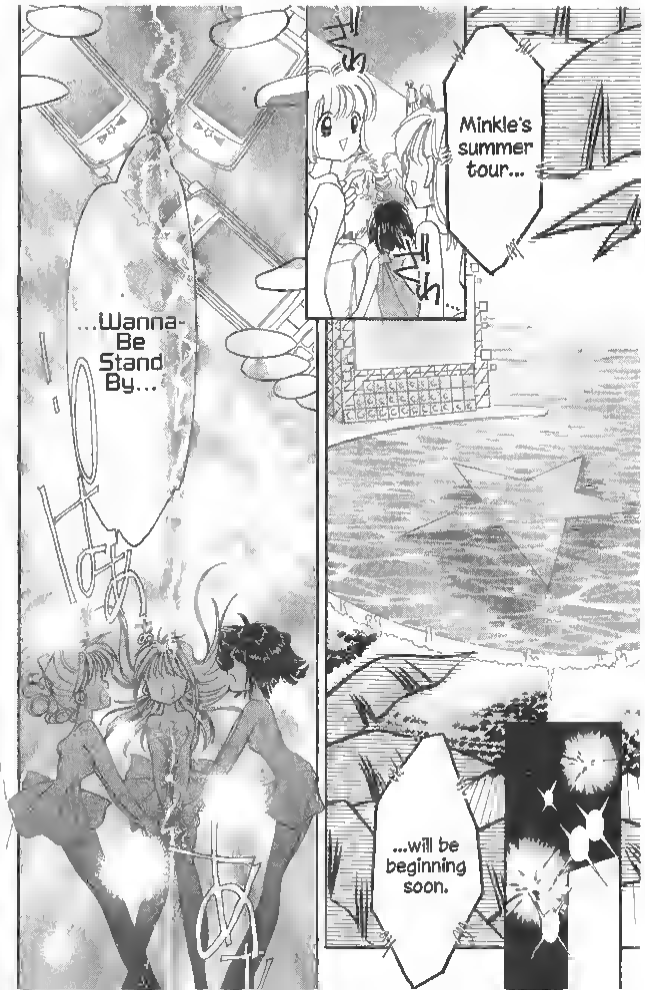
Mink'll be waiting for me.
I wonder what will happen if she resists me--?!
Yesss-a live tour!!
We're going to Hawaii!!
UHI Hie Hie Hie Hie Hie
That reminds me, Maiholo and her friends didn't come to see us off. I guess they're still disappointed

. I will always protect her.
I've gotta go, Mink's calling .
You're gonna be a Cyberoid, man!
Be cool, be cool. This'll be fun.

ALOHA
How does this look?
We match
HOT
We got a three-person suite!!

Oh, this is sooo pretty!
Wow!

Set up !!!
WANNA-BE
CD-ROM

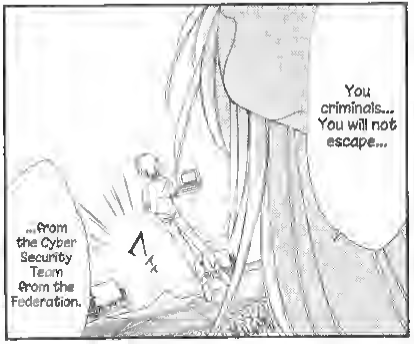

Minkle's summer tour...
...Wanna-Be Stand By...
...will be beginning soon.

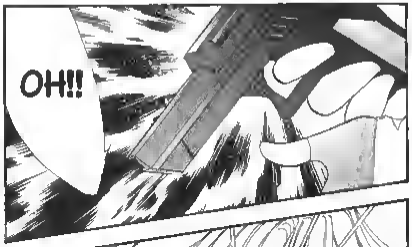
Okay, we're going live soon!!
Mink started out as a fan, and now she's up there!
ミーンクル!
Oooh, this is pretty!
Can we wear these onstage? ♪
Hey, wait a minute...
..how did the fans get backstage to give them lens?
Okay, let's cut short the opening act.
Otherwise this'll just get worse.
Stay here.
Mink!
Mink-le! Mink-le! Mink-le!
This is awesome. They're all crowding the stage.

Uh, Manager– you may want to look at this.
!
We've been waiting for you!!

Oh no! It's in...
...the leis.
They're a time bomb!!!
TIK
TIK
TIK
TIK
TIK

We just got...
...a creepy fax.
Mink—Why do you ignore me?
If you won't be mine I WILL ERASE YOU.
Can I ...
...wear it onstage?
!!
Pretty flowers!?
What does this mean?
What the #@%$?!
Huh--
Could this person be in the audience?
P.S. In the prettiest of flowers are the sharpest of thorns.


You criminals... You will not escape...
...from the Cyber Security Team from the Federation.


OH!!

!!

"If you won't be mine..."
That's right.
I'm your master, Mink. You must follow my orders.
The software froze. Miss Rock Star wins round one. But you're just a data stream and I can rework you when I choose!

That's him...
...Kyo J. Falwell.
TAK
TAK
TAK

Take off the lei!
That creep--
!?
TOCK!!
Please, out of the way!!
Out of the way...
Mink!!
What?... I can't hear you
Wha-
Huh?
The lei--
What are you doing?
Matoharu?
TIK
TIK
TIK
TIK
TIK

Five
Two
Let's sing.
Two
Three
Mink, are you okay?
The concert has been cancelled.
!!
We can't just stop singing!!
If we cancel, it'll be like saying the stalker won!!
This is what we love!
Is this the work of that stalker, too?!
What?! What just happened?!

No diamond compares to you...
...and I am your Jewel alone.
Don't erase this magic feeling.
Don't cloud your sparkling glow.
SING
It makes you want to show him the right way to love.
...Right?
This isn't how you treat someone you love!
That's it.
Today we present, for the first time ever, our new song "10 Carat Shower."

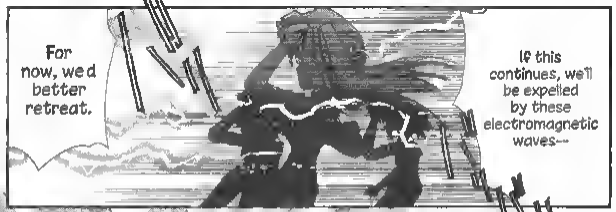
10 Carat Shower!!
Hey, we made it through.
SONG

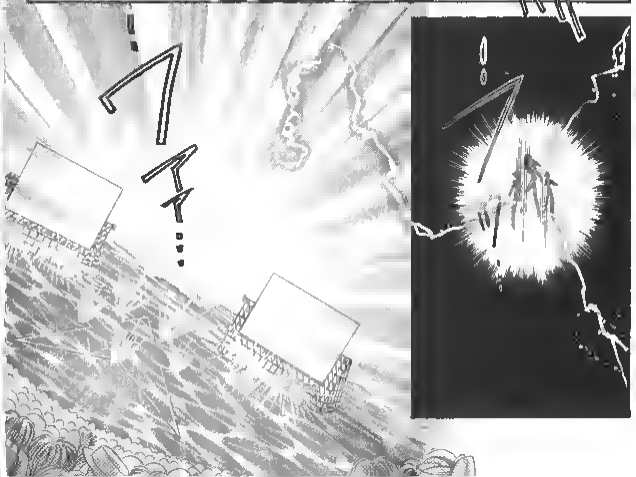
I...I didn't-
Huh?
SHINE-
Is this a function of the Song Option?!
What's going on?
Everything will be washed away.
For sure.
Let's drape ourselves head to toe.
YAAAAAY!
It looks just like a shower of diamonds!
Wow, look!

Thank you!
We love you all!
See you again, soon!
Maybe Mr. Stalker...
...got the hint.

Aaagh--
Is this the power of Mink and her friends?

This?
This is impossible! Is this what happens when I try to delete them from my WANNA-BE Version 2.0!?


For now, we'd better retreat.
If this continues, we'll be expelled by these electromagnetic waves--



Uh-huh.
Someday you're heart will race...
...because a certain girl...
...like she's all you've ever wanted.
...will make you feel...
About our song...
Do you think we got the message across?
I think he did get it...
...for sure.
I'm so glad you're okay.
I've never been so frightened.

Y'all come out and see us, ya hear?
Our next appearance will be at the S. River Fireworks Festival!
5-1
Did you see yesterday's Pop-up Sam?
I did! I did!
きゃあ
きゃあっ
They are sooo cute!!
We so have to go see the fireworks show
I already know all the lyrics to their new song!
Really? For "10 Carat Shower?"

電脳少女☆Mink

Cyber Idol Mink

Chapter 23

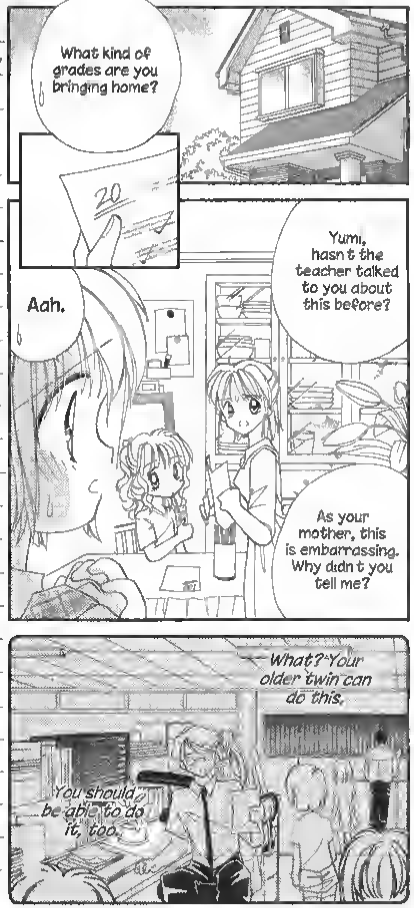
A Midsummer Night's Meteor

Ru--
きゃあ
きゃあっ
Uh-huh--
It's called a comet lily. It's stronger than it looks.
As long as I give it sunshine and water, it's always fine--
Don't worry, I'm here.
You'll be all better soon.
That little brat Yumi is weird, talking to her flower.
Let's go

カチャン!
That's so kewl, Rumi. Sing to me!
I know them, too.
Oops.
Yuck, there's dirt all over the place
Is this the flower Yumi grew?
My little sister, Yumi, has a very green thumb
Right?
Yumi?
It'll be fine.

Q. Are there two kinds of screen tone, one that's applied and one that's removed?

A. No, there's only one kind. What we call "regular screen tone" allows you to do either, apply or remove. Try it out. Take the screen tone you normally use and just cut it with a knife. (Whether you're good at cutting it is another matter. You more or less need to practice it. By the way, I stink at it, but my assistant has it mastered.)
Which reminds me, there used to be a kind of tone that you could rub on like "inreta." Does it still exist? I'm not certain.


What kind of grades are you bringing home?
20
Aah.
Yumi, hasn't the teacher talked to you about this before?
As your mother, this is embarrassing. Why didn't you tell me?
What? Your older twin can do this.
You should be able to do it, too.

Someone--
I don't like myself when I'm like this.
Someone please listen to me
Won't someone notice me?
Someone help me!!!

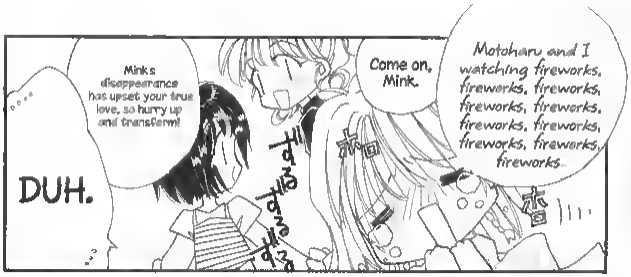
Right now? But you promised that I could. .
Rumi got a 100...
Rumi! Come here and tutor Yumi.
...go get that Minkie CD if I got a 100.
...you think you could learn a little from her.
Well, Mom...
You're too much.
...really trying my best.
I'm... I'm....

Become the self you want to be.
What I don't want to be is who I am.
What is this?
Try to learn from your sister.
I want to erase myself.
I hate myself.
Your older twin can do this.

Rumi's left the PC on again.
カチ
カチ
WANNA-BE
VER. 2
Version 2.0
"WANNA-BE"
You can become the self you want to be --

They look up...
Without noticing it, their hands touch
Yo! Guys--
It's more like the start of something boring. You think like a middle-aged woman
Hey, hey!
Could this be the start of a beautiful relationship?!?
You're definitely going to say it...
...You've been practicing that line for three days.
Motoharu!

Hello, everyone!
What better way to top off the summer...
...than the 20th Annual S. River Fireworks Festival!!
The turn-out today is incredible.
I have a feeling it's because of our special guests.
And we'll be talking to Minkie pre- and post-show!
A fireworks festival!


DUH.
Mink's disappearance has upset your true love, so hurry up and transform!
Come on, Mink.
Motoharu and I watching fireworks, fireworks, fireworks, fireworks, fireworks, fireworks, fireworks, fireworks, fireworks...

WANNA-BE STAND BY
WANNA-BE

Over there
Have you seen Minkie anywhere?
Will you watch the fireworks with me?
Um, Motoharu—
The fire-works—
Um...

Um..
The fire-works...
That's why
They went off somewhere, but they have to go on soon...
If you see them, tell them to come to the relay area pronto.
I'm counting on you.

Sniff, this is no good
She's totally off in the clouds again, that Mink.

Bye!
What about the fireworks?

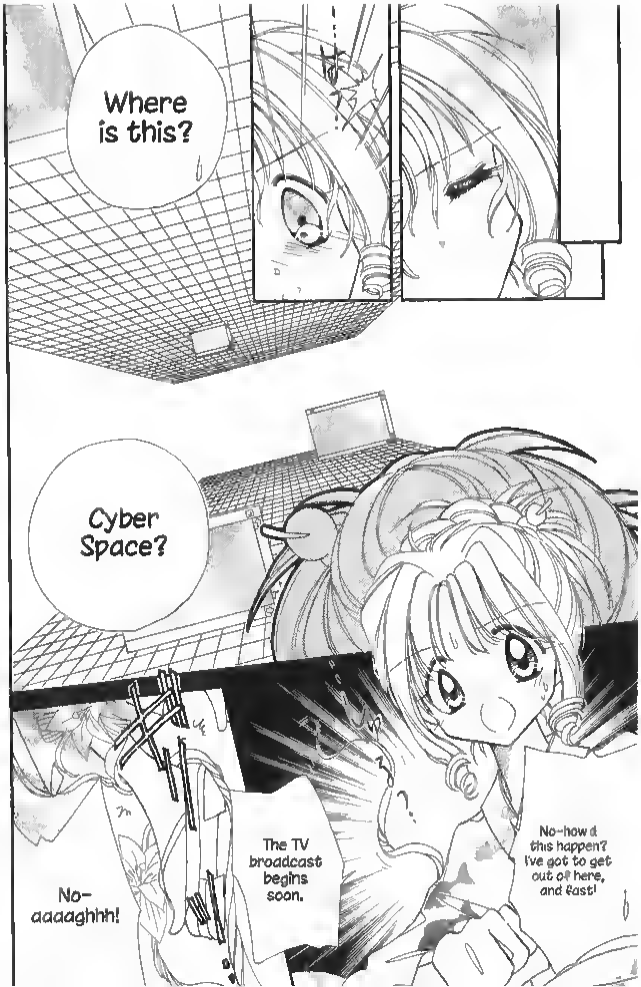
Set up!!

Hiiii!!
All right, Mink!!
Maco!
Canon!
Look at me!
Everybody--
What the--?
What's she doing? That's Mink's solo part!

!!
Meteharu...
Come on, broadcast time, broadcast time.
Are you still stuck on that?
What's the matter, Maco?
DUNK!
?
Umm... nothing.
Now for our guests, the members of Minkie!!
Sorry for the delay!

Nobody's looking at me!!
That's not really Maco--
Who ARE you?!
Heh! Fireworks--they're the same wherever you do them
But this way you can see them better.
I want everyone to see them real well...
Because...
What's that!?
It's going to split my head!
BANG
Aaagh!
The fireworks are exploding right underfoot!!
Maco, stop it now!

Thanks to your Cyber-droid.
Version 2.0 will explore the dark side...
...and keep giving birth to cyberdroids.
What's...
...this flower doing?
I can't move!!
No one will ever ignore me again, and I'll have the world at my feet.


Where is this?
Cyber Space?
No-aaaaghhh!
The TV broadcast begins soon.
No-how'd this happen? I've got to get out of here, and fast!

Mink is here.
And I'm proud of her.
I understand, "Maco."
You fake! Give Maco back.
!!
Everyone will pay attention to me.
No one will ever ignore me again.
BEEP
ANALYZE
Analyze
What are you saying? I AM Maco!
Stop it!! What did you do with Maco?
This girl...
Not Mom, not my teacher, not my classmates, not Rumi!!
...has taken over Maco?!
Notice me.
Matoharu, notice me!

SONG
Song Function.
Come on, "Network"!!
!!
That girl is the same as me.
Mink?!
We have a show now. Would you like to come with us?
The same.
Won't you please sing with us?

Higher, higher in the night sky.
The comet lily rose, dancing.
That's my flower!!
Oooh.

!!
The flower's been deleted.
!
I am...
I am...

What?!
Lyrics are pouring from my lips!
Minkle is here for you.
You're not alone.

Q. What do you do when you have free time?
A. I do the things right away that normally I'm too busy to do, like cleaning and other chores. Then I take care of the flowers out on the veranda (because I like growing flowers.) Then if I still have free time, I catch up on all the videos and books I haven't had a chance to get to, or I go on a trip or go shopping. The problem is that my free time doesn't often coincide with other people's, and I don't like to do stuff alone. So, I'm at home a lot.

Those were amazing fireworks.
I've never seen anything so pretty.
It's a "Comet Lily Yumi."
Really! They say it's a state-of-the-art firework.
The plant that Yumi here valued so much...
...has become a firework!

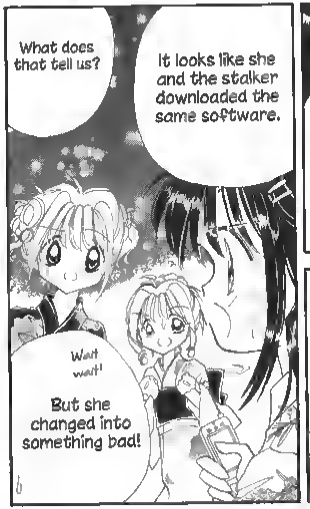
It's bloomed so beautifully!
It would wither if it weren't for the one-and-only you...
"Comet Lily" makes you important.
...That's why...
...everyone notices this flower.

I wanted someone to notice me...
...I wanted to be needed!!
Because WANNA-BE is dangerous software, it must be banned, and then destroyed.
But I...
...worked so hard...
I don't want this dangerous software around!
You aren't worthy of D.W. Corporation.
Get out!
No one appreciates my genius!

Come on, come on
Motoharu.
The show went off without a hitch.
Hang in there, Mink.
...to get Motoharu to notice that it's me standing in front of him.
I have some work to do...
I wouldn't want to lose him to a "virtual girl."
Yes, it is!
It's Yumi's flower!
Yumi! This is great!
Rumi!?
She was worried about me and came to find me.
Yeah! Listen to their CD with me.
Mimkie looks great don't they?

~WANNA-BE, Version 2.0~
I updated WANNA-BE.
Kyo!!

Mink
Caroc!
Good to be back
Maca, you're back!
Those two--


What does that tell us?
It looks like she and the stalker downloaded the same software.
Wait wait!
But she changed into something bad!

♪ This is just great This is just great This is just great This is just great This is just great This is just great This is just great This is just great This is just great ♪
Listen up.
"This is just great" is ringing in their ears so they can't hear

I just took a look at Yumi's data.
The responsible one

You belong to me!!!
I'll teach...
...you!!
Kyo...?!

You're pathetic...
You're nothing more than a set of data!!
You could never understand.
How did this happen?
You're nothing but the idol I created.
You try to take Yumi from me by telling her she's needed by a FLOWER?!
Even though you're just data...
Even though you're just a program!!
Who am I important to!?
So then, tell me! Who needs me?

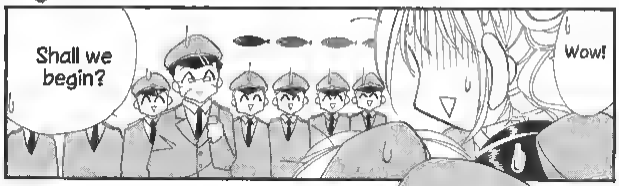
...maybe you just need to be appreciated.
Kyo...
I'll teach you!
Quiet!
はしっ...
Can't they see how important I am!?
Shut up!! Shut up!!

Cyber Idol Mink
電脳少女★Mink
Chapter 24
Back from the Future

...
Hey...
...I got lost!
Mink, you're late.
My bad!
Today's Job will rock.
That Jerk again--!
What does he think he's going to do to Mink?!

I won't give up!!
I'll show everyone the Federation, the D.W. Corporation-- I'll show them what happens when they treat me like a nuisance!
What's wrong with that?!
.....
He said, "a nuisance"...
What happened in this world of the future?
.....

Your fans are waiting for you!
Yeah— policewomen, policewomen!
This is not the time to fool around...
These look so cool!
I've always wanted to try this!!


Shall we begin?
Wow!

Minkie, you have been made honorary police officers for the day!
Let's give them a hearty round of applause.
It's Autumn Safety Week.

WANNA-BE STAND BY...
Set-up!
The guns are fake.

Special thanks to:

Miyuki Okazaki
Miwa Ishioka
Midori Koyano

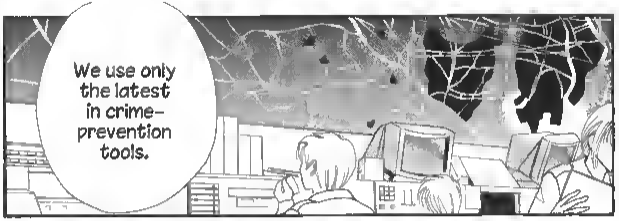
Harumi Minami

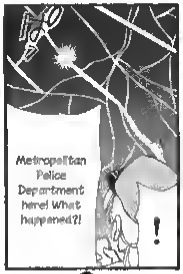
Coordinator:
Tamayo Kamagata

Thank you very much!

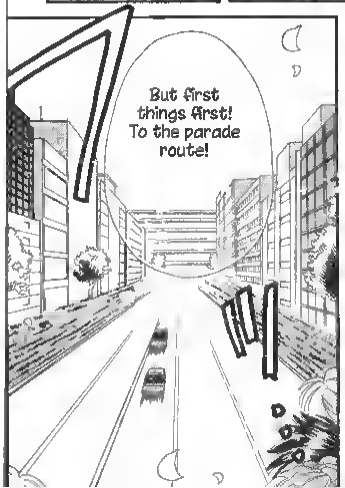
All the newest Minkie info is available online.
The fans must've found out about the parade from the new website.
Oh!
Really?? We had no idea.
Fans can chat there and swap info by cell phone.

The members of Minkie.
We'll give it our all
Autumn Safety Week
You're extremely popular: there's a parade planned along the main streets and already the crowds are already gathering.
Welcome to S District. My daughter and I are both big fans of yours.
Later I'd like to get your autographs
Thank you. Thank you.


We use only the latest in crime-prevention tools.


Metropolitan Police Department here! What happened?!
!

With this system, whatever the crime...
...we can grasp it and respond swiftly.
Awesome!


But first things first! To the parade route!

Um.
She figured it out.
Was there an accident?
Don't worry. We'll take care of it.

Toy hand cuffs
Huh?
すこーん
Just in case there are any bad guys.
...we brought our own secret weapons today!!
For the record...

We'll show you our standard weapons as part of the taur.
They have strong spirits...
This way.

Don't mind them
This is how they always are
Drunk-ish buddy!!
Arrest. Arrest. Arrest. Arrest. Arrest. Arrest. Arrest. Arrest. Arrest. Arrest. Arrest. Arrest.
"Over the speed limit, sir, pull!"

It's more than I expected.
There are thousands of fans.

KYO?!
If you think this is an ordinary traffic jam, you're dead wrong.
What are you trying to tell us?
Because even though this little ol' Mink may only be police officer for a day...
I WILL arrest you if I have to!
!!
Mink!

Keep your eyes on the celebrities!
The size of the crowd is causing a bottleneck.
Manager!
With such a big crowd, anything could happen!
Wait a sec...
Is beyond what's normal--
Don't you think?
This number of people--

Whoaaah?!
!
Too many people around the car!!
MINK
This is kinda sketchy.
Motoharu?!
Mink... That guy...
Do you know him??
This person is that--
Uh, uh, um.
What do I do?
I can't exactly say that he's someone from the future.

Of course.
Let's tell everyone.
Okay.
Did you know that today is Minkle's parade?
No way!
Everyone who accesses the fan site...
...is infected instantly.
Are you going?
I know, I know, Minkle's parade...
...it's in S District.

Heh heh heh, I infected your fan site with a virus!
That's one too many. What's going on here?
Another accident.
The warning light is flashing...
This can't be...
Then I'll go call for help!
There's nothing I can do. All the roads are blocked.
Stop the parade. We've got to get out of here!
More and more fans keep arriving.

How could you understand? You don't know what it's like to be me—ignored, lonely.
I do understand, I do!
Nah, don't feel like it...
Turn them back the way they were right away!
Aren't you happy? They notice you.
You couldn't.

Once an infected fan makes a call, the person on the receiving end becomes infected immediately. It will spread like a plague!
...and become nothing more than chain mail.
They'll come under the control of Version 2.0...
Your idiot fans are chained, just like like I programmed them to be.
No one can stop me!
Ha ha ha ha...
This is horrible...
What kind of monster are you?!!

But is THIS really what you want to get attention for?!
Did you really create WANNA-BE...
...only to wreak havoc?
If that's the case, I'm never unlocking these handcuffs.

That's why I try so hard to please my fans with the fake me.
As "Mink," I can repay everyone who makes me feel needed.
So I know that you must have tried really hard, too
Being fired must've really hurt.
She's Just...
The real me...
I do understand, because Cyber Idol Mink isn't the real me.
...an ordinary girl.
...is a girl who isn't noticed by the boy she likes.

WAAAAH!!
Don't you understand?
Stop, it's me!

Let me go.
You think you can hold me with this flimsy thing?!
No, I won't.
I've seen what you've done with my own eyes.
Uwaaaa!!!
Let me go!!

Unchain all the fans!!
"NET-WORK" !!!

Mink!!
I know what to do!!
Come on-

Kyo, you tried really hard.
I understand.

SONG!!

Why did you help me?
Why did you help me?!
What?
Don't you get that these were pre-compiled values with assigned inferences... they're just tools!
?
Huh?
Come on, Kyo!
Sing with us...
Seriously

For me--
Cyber Security here!!
!?
What's that!?
Nobody move!!
Continued in Volume 6

What did he just say?
You're still someone who can be a good friend...
...to be joined together.
Even without the handcuffs...
Let's shake!
I under-stand.
...the truth is that you really wanted...
I won't let go!

For me...?
A... friend?

Q What animals do you like?

A BIRDS! Including penguins I have a Cherry Blossom Parakeet It's a little larger than a Budgerigar and they're so much fun because they clearly show joy, anger, sadness and amusement when they're happy they flap their wings and turn around in place. when they're sad, they cry with a really sad song If you let them out of their cage, they pony right up to humans and want to play They also get jealous They don't mind if you pet them, and even rub their cheeks (I've heard that you should never kiss a bird though, because you could catch a disease) They like small, dark places, so they like to go in and out of collars and sleeves to play I have totally turned into a doting Mommy.

I love dogs and cats of course, too If I got a cat, I would get an American short hair, and if I got a dog, I think a Welsh Corgi would be nice.

Q Do you have a favorite recipe?

A I love boiled foods, so it would probably be a soup or stew dish Meat with potatoes, or boiled daikon, or boiled fish, for example Pasta is really my thing, so I make it a lot I also like Japanese style tarako On the other hand, I hate raw vegetables, so when I go to the supermarket, I deliberately avoid stuff like cabbages, peppers and celery (I particularly loathe Sen-cabbage)

But we must eat our veggies, so I do have some—if they're boiled or steamed Instead of vegetables, I also eat seaweed and drink vegetable juice

You're probably wondering why I don't just eat fruit, but I don't like raw fruit either If I had to, I'd probably eat peaches (Or fruit that's in the filling of a cake)

Going back to cooking, my big weakness is cakes And I do mean weakness I just don't have the muscle for it and I get too tired out making them

Blood Types by Aiko Satou

I want to see the Harry Potter movie. Especially because of the actor who plays Harry—he is too cute! I'm really happy that he matches the image I had of the character. But I have a request: that they stop giving spoilers about *The Prisoner of Azkaban*. I haven't read it yet!!

Dramas I've watched:

The Hottest Summer in the World by Shunsuke Kazama. I decided to watch it because it got an award, and the story was so good that I couldn't tear myself away from it. *Usokai* by Fei Yuan. This was cute. I also liked the fashion show scene(s). *I Want to Love, I Want to Love, I Want to Love* by Mibo Kanno was therapeutic. It definitely made me cry. This is kinda random but—I'm spending a lot of days online. However, I've only just started carrying a cell (properly known as a PHS). I've started learning how to create a homepage. One of these days, I will definitely launch one, so please come take a peek. Well, that is about it for now. Let's meet again in Volume 6!

-Megumi Tachikawa

Songs I've listened to:

Memory of a Dream by Kouzou Murashita
DEEP FOREST by Do As Infinity
Mr. Children 1992-1995
Mr. Children 1996-2000 by Mr. Children
Topics by My Little Lover
Perfect Crime by Mai Kuraki
a piece of life by Takako Matsu
For Lovers by Enya

These are the singles.

IS IT YOU? By hitomi
EVERYDAY AT THE BUS STOP by Tommy February

It was a shock when Kouzou Murashita died. I always thought it would be cool to draw a manga like one of Murashita's songs. I went to pay my last respects. I felt like I was waiting to hear one of Tommy February's song. Please think of the songs that Minkie sings as being like his.

Books I've been reading:

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets by J. K. Rowling

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VOLUME 6

Cyber Security has caught Kyo, and with him Mink and her friends, for the illegal use of the WANNA-BE program. The girls' popstar counterparts will be deleted from history at midnight on the 31st of December...but Minkie's final concert, a Cinderella-themed extravaganza, is scheduled for New Year's Eve! When the clock strikes twelve, is the fairytale simply over, or will Mink find her happy ending? Find out in this final volume!

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